

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2002 MEETING**

A meeting of the Workforce Investment Board was called to order by Chairman Donald Hooper at 7:40 AM, Wednesday, June 26, 2002, at the Human Services Center, Canton, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Genevieve Baxter, Doug Beachard, Don Brining, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Joseph Kennedy Donald Hooper, Kristy Langtry, Linda Manchester, Joanne Novak, Walt Paul, Peter Phelan, Stephen Novacich, Linda Randi, Ryan Schermerhorn. Tim Weaver.

Members Absent: Lynn Blevins, John Bogosian, Bruce Green, Ron McDougall, Mike St. Thomas.

Others Present: Edmund J. Russell, Jr., Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., and Gretchen Wood of the Office of Economic Development; James Fleet of the New York State Department of Labor; Ron Faucher, Chair of the St. Lawrence County Youth Council.

MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Brining and seconded by Mr. Phelan, the minutes of the April 24, 2002 meeting were approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Hooper welcomed all members to the meeting and introduced Mr. Ron Faucher. Mr. Faucher is the newly appointed Chair of the Youth Council and will be reporting on behalf of the Youth Committee.

Chairman Hooper stated that he and Mr. Fountain attended a local WIB meeting on June 10, and he noted that most of the discussions dealt with the differences between local WIB's, varying from WIB's covering more than one county to political and partner issues.

At the Executive Committee meeting implementation of educational presentations during full Board meetings was recommended. These presentations would last between ten to fifteen minutes. Joanne Sevick, Director of the Youth Bureau, will be invited to the August 28 meeting.

The dedication of the Canton Human Services Center is scheduled for July 11 as part of the County's Government Day and Bicentennial Celebration. All WIB members should have received an official invitation and are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Russell stated that the One-Stop golf tournament will be held on July 19 and asked that any Board member who wished to attend to please contact John Manson at the One-Stop Career Center.

Finally, Chairman Hooper complimented Dave Mance and Miles Manchester of the Department of Labor for their help in securing an Aversion Grant for the Acco plant in Ogdensburg.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing and Quality Assurance Committee: There was no Marketing and Quality Assurance Meeting held in April. Mr. Russell stated that the Partners are still working on the marketing budgets and, once received, a WIB marketing budget will be presented to the full Board.

Youth Committee: Mr. Faucher reported on the handout distributed to members at this meeting on youth program elements. The Youth Committee has received four bids. Two are being recommended for passage by the full Board and are included in the packet. Mr. Faucher stated that there are ten elements in the youth program design. All ten must be offered by the end of the year in order to comply with WIA legislation.

Services Committee: Mr. Beachard reported that the Services Committee recommends passage of the resolution in the packet authorizing certification of eligible training providers. Mr. Fountain reminded the Board that all providers need only be certified by one local WIB and can then be used throughout the state. All certified training providers are listed on the state website.

Executive Committee:

Please see Chairman's report.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Certification of Eligible Training Providers—Policy 4-F

Mr. Beachard explained that the list attached to the resolution contains demand and non-demand occupations. Mr. Russell explained that a provider can be certified by any local WIB and be utilized throughout the state. Moved by Mr. Phelan, seconded by Ms. Caswell. The resolution passed unanimously with Ms. Randi's abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract for Year-Round Youth Program-Seaway Valley Prevention Council

Mr. Faucher stated that the RFP received from Seaway Valley Prevention fulfills at least two of the required ten elements. The Youth Council recommends that a contract be awarded to Seaway Valley. The Council recommendation to the WIB is for \$10,000 less than requested by Seaway Valley since the Council believes that the \$10,000 for media advertising is unnecessary. Mr. Fountain stated that after the award of the contract to Seaway Valley and the award being considered in the next resolution the WIB will have approximately \$134,000 for other year-round youth programming awards. Mr. Beachard moved, seconded by Mr. Brining. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract for Year-Round Youth Program—St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

Ms. Baxter moved, seconded by Ms. Novak. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Brining's abstention.

Resolution Modifying the Welfare to Work Budget for St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment and Training Unit

Mr. Fountain explained that the WtW program has been operating for several years. The program required a local match. The budget presented represents the full amount that can be drawn down. The local match requirement has been met. The Board of Legislators has been presented with this budget modification for consideration at their July meeting. Moved by Mr. Brining, seconded by Dr. Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Establishing the Workforce Investment Act Budget for St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment and Training Unit

Mr. Fountain stated that this resolution establishes the 2002 Budget beginning July 1. A large variance can be seen in the funds for dislocated workers. It is expected that additional funds for dislocated workers will be awarded during the upcoming year reducing the gap. Moved by Mr. Daddario, seconded by Mr. Phelan. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Modifying the Workforce Investment Act Budget for the St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment and Training Unit

Mr. Fountain stated that the Department of Labor allocated \$20,000 in funding for the acquisition of handicapped-accessible workstations for the One-Stop. One workstation will be in the Resource Room and the other will be located at the Washington Street, Ogdensburg, site. Mr. Russell stated that the Executive Committee directed staff to go forward with the purchases prior to the full Board meeting as the workstations needed to be ordered and delivered by June 30. If this had not been done, the funding would have been recouped by the State. Moved by Ms. Caswell, seconded by Mr. Beachard. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

WIA Performance Measures Comparison of Goals & Outcomes 3d Quarter Report

Mr. Russell stated that the performance standards for the third quarter with two exceptions have been met or exceeded. In one case the standard was missed by a very small percentage. The Diploma Attainment Rate is expected to be significantly improved by the 4th quarter. Mr. Russell suspects that the low Attainment Rate is owing to the fact that few diplomas are awarded in the first three quarters of the year. Mr. Fountain stated that the State has not come up with a measurement for customer satisfaction, therefore the Report Cards done internally are used for customer feedback.

Mr. Russell directed the Board's attention to the dislocated worker earnings replacement rate noting that the goals and outcomes are being met. This is an accomplishment considering the wages of the jobs from which people were displaced.

Mr. Fountain explained the timetable used for reporting. Outcomes are not reported until two quarters after exit which basically becomes a nine month period for reporting purposes. Data is

tracked by the UI office for holding of employment and retention of wages. A self-employed person makes this even harder to track.

Department of Labor Program Year 1998 Closeout review letter from Mark Misterka, Senior Auditor

Mr. Russell stated that this letter notes compliance with the 1998 closeout review as conducted by Mr. Misterka. No problems were found.

GM Vendor Project

Mr. Russell stated that the Office of Economic Development and One-Stop staff have been working with the three vendors who have signed leases with GM in Massena. GM is extending its purchase order to seven years. Forty people are expected to be employed among the three companies. Mr. Fountain is currently working with two firms looking for plant managers and hourly line staff.

Newton Falls plant prospect

Mr. Russell stated that the company which opened the Deferiet mill has expressed an interest in Newton Falls. Newstech currently has two de-inking facilities (Pennsylvania and Maryland). Deferiet currently takes the pulp from the Maryland facilities for paper production. If Newton Falls was added to the Deferiet operation, most of the companies de-inked fiber production at the Pennsylvania plant would be used by the two North Country facilities. Administration of both plants would be unified.

Newstech is also taking a few issues into consideration: the cost of starting up the water treatment facility and the use of the land fill in Newton Falls for Deferiet's solid waste. Mr. Russell stated that the Newton Falls land fill is new, but an executive order signed by the Governor prohibits the importation of solid waste into the Adirondack Park.

Kraft Canton plant

Mr. Russell stated that a meeting was held to discuss the future of Kraft's Canton plant on June 21, but was prematurely reported in the press. Issues discussed included milk prices, the size of the plant, and the cost of transporting whey. Two firms are currently looking at the Canton plant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hooper thanked Board members for attending the meeting. On motion of Mr. Beachard and seconded by Dr. Kennedy, the meeting adjourned at:8 40 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Novak, Esq.